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## IMPROVEMENT IN AGRICULTURE.

A Sure Method to Extirpate the Disease called SMUT in WHEAT, discovered by CHARLES BAKER, Seedsman, BRISTOL.

THE very great injury this kingdom, and almost every other country, suffer annually by SMUT in WHEAT, has induced many persons to attempt a Remedy for this baneful evil, but for want of ascertaining the *real Cause* of Smut, they have failed in their undertaking. A REMEDY that *may be relied on*, is however, at length, happily discovered, and would have been offered to the Public a considerable time since, had not unavoidable circumstances prevented.

C. BAKER would esteem himself an intruder on the Public, if he simply offered a *Receipt*, tho' that receipt had proved efficacious in a thousand instances, but he has discovered the CAUSE of Smut, and any person, shewing him a sample of Wheat, tho' that sample may appear perfectly clean, he can discover in an instant if its produce will prove smutty, tho' sown on any land, or in any situation.

This discovery differs from all others in four very essential parts.

(1) It is so perfectly efficacious that it never has failed during repeated trials of eleven years, in any *one* instance, nor can it fail of its *full effect* to the end of time.

(2) In its cheapness. Allowing the extent of every expence, it can never amount to more than three halfpence per bushel.

(3) In the simplicity of the process. One man, or boy, can prepare at least ten bushels per hour, fit to be sown immediately.

(4) That if prepared, you never need change your seed.

With these advantages, which he stakes his honor to prove true to all who subscribe, he must esteem it an insult on the good sense of his Countrymen to dwell on such a subject; but by a plain detail of proofs, which speak for themselves, he submits himself to the Public, looking forward with a pleasing assurance, to a national benefit of perhaps nearly *One Million* per annum, by increase of quantity, and improvement in the quality of Wheat.

### ATTESTATIONS OF TRIALS.

To Mr. CHARLES BAKER, Seedsman, Bristol.

SIR, AS I understand you are about soliciting Subscriptions for your inestimable secret of curing Smut in Wheat, I feel it a duty incumbent on me to state the following facts, which you have the liberty of publishing if you think proper, as I conceive that nothing was ever yet found out of such value as your method, *which may be relied on*, for preventing Smut in Corn. — About the year 1789, I was induced, by your persuasions, to try about two bushels of Wheat of your preparing, on the condition you should give me such seed, and, in case the produce of it was smutty (which I certainly expected, as the seed was the smuttiest I ever saw) you should take to it at the market price the *best wheat* sold for: but, to my astonishment, your seed produced as clean a crop as ever was seen, when, at the same time, my clean seed, prepared in the best manner I could in my usual way, produced some parts of my crops smutty. — You may refer any person to me who is desirous of further information, either personally, or by letter post-paid, which shall be attended by Your obedient servant, THO. YOUNG. *Sayes Farm, near Sodbury, Gloucestershire.*

Wapley, County of Gloucester, Nov. 1796.

SIR, YOU gave me some very Smutty Wheat in the year 1788, to sow on my land by way of experiment, which I

consented to do only on the condition, that if the produce proved smutty, you should take it at the best price Wheat sold for within 40 miles of Bristol. I accordingly sowed it in one part of the field, and some of the cleanest Wheat I could procure, prepared in my own way, in another part of the same field. Your smutty seed proved perfectly clean in its produce, and part of my clean seed produced smut. This convinced me that your preparation is an effectual cure of smut; and I shall, with pleasure, subscribe for the discovery. Any person wanting more information is welcome to apply to Your's, &c. JACOB HIGHNAM.

Mr. C. Baker, Seedsman, Bristol.

Parish of Bitton, Gloucestershire, Sept. 20, 1796.

MR. BAKER, SIR, UNDERSTANDING you are going to open a Subscription for your great secret of preparing seed for preventing Smut, I think myself in duty bound, for the benefit I have experienced therefrom, to acquaint the public with the following facts, of which I will give a more particular account to any person who wishes it, and will take the trouble of calling on me. — About the year 1789, you made me a present of about two bushels of Smutty Wheat, the blackest and smuttiest I think I ever saw, part of which you prepared, and I sowed it separate from any other, and it produced as clean a crop as ever was seen. The other part of it I sowed unprepared, and it produced a crop of nearly one half smut. And also some clean Wheat, which I sowed at the same time, unprepared, produced some part smutty; tho' all in the same field: which fully demonstrated the efficacy of your preparation. After which you was so kind as to prepare my Wheat for me, and I was never troubled with smut any one year whilst you continued to do so. But in the year 1794, when you informed me you should drop preparing Wheat, being wearied with such repeated experiments without hope of being paid for your time and labour, I prepared my seed in the best manner I could; but am sorry to say, that it produced a crop so smutty that I was near Forty Pounds the worse for it on my little farm. And this year also, in 25 acres of Wheat there is no part of the crop free from smut, except a little you prepared for a further experiment, which produced as clean Wheat as ever was seen. Another very material advantage in your preparation is, that a Farmer never need change his seed, but may continue to sow the same produce year after year, by having it prepared by your method, without any risk or danger of smut, as I have experienced for five following years myself; and I believe that your preparation is the only effectual remedy ever discovered for curing Smut in Wheat. As such, I recommend it to every person concerned in Wheat Sowing.

I am, Your obedient servant, JACOB GOLDING.

St. George's, County of Gloucester, Oct. 1796.

MR. C. BAKER, SIR, In the year 1788, you made me a present of some very Smutty Wheat, which you had prepared, and requested me to try it on my farm, which I objected to; but on your agreeing to purchase the produce at the price of best Wheat, I sowed it, and it produced as clean a crop as ever was seen; notwithstanding clean Wheat which I sowed in the same field, unprepared, proved some part smutted: from which I am firmly of opinion, that your preparation is a certain and effectual cure.

Your obedient servant, DENNIS BRYANT.



MR. JOHN YOUNG, late of Preston Farm, but now of Camerton, in the county of Somerset, declareth, that in the year 1790, Mr. Charles Baker, of the city of Bristol, Seedsmen, prepared one sack of very Smutty Wheat for him the said John Young. That year he sowed at least one hundred acres of Wheat of his own preparing, the whole produce of which was so very smutty as to prevent his sending it to market that whole year; but the Wheat prepared by Mr. C. Baker aforesaid, tho' sown in ridges in the same piece with a large part of his own preparing, produced Wheat perfectly free from the least degree of smut whatever.

With the preceding testimonials, and a great number more which might be produced, Charles Baker, in the year 1792, thought himself authorized to apply to the Bath Agriculture Society for their encouragement, who, with their usual caution, requested of C. Baker, that the excellence of his discovery might be proved under their inspection; to which he consented; and Mr. Robins, of the city of Bristol, Cornfactor, was employed by the Society to attend the process from its commencement to its conclusion, at the time when ripe, in 1793; which said Mr. Robins favored C. Baker with the following Certificate.

"THIS is to certify, That, at the request of the Bath Society, I attended upon an experiment, made by Charles Baker, to prevent Smut in Wheat, by means of a discovery made by him.—In November, 1792, I attended Mr. Baker to Mr. Golding's, in the parish of Bitton, in the county of Gloucester, where two bushels of as Smutty Wheat as could be procured of the growth of the same year was produced (and I think as bad as any I ever saw;) one bushel of which I gave Mr. Baker to prepare, which he presently prepared; the other bushel was sown unprepared. And in order that no possible mistake might arise, I attended the whole of the process, and never lost sight of the Wheat till it was committed, ploughed, and harrowed into the land. Next harvest I attended with a friend, to examine the grown crop; when, to my great surprize, we found the produce of that bushel prepared by Mr. Baker *as clean a crop as ever was seen*, and, on the most minute and accurate examination, not the least appearance of smut amongst it; whilst that sown unprepared was, on the most moderate calculation, *one third part smut*. Bristol, Sept. 1793. THO. ROBINS."

Charles Baker being much engaged in his business, and seeing no profit likely to accrue from his attention to Wheat, he made but few experiments in 1794; but in 1795, his friends pressing him on all sides, and urging the propriety of bringing his discovery before the Public, he resolved, if he must act again in that business, to open, if possible, a correspondence with that first, and most zealous Friend to Agriculture (and, of course, to his country) Sir John Sinclair, from whom he received very polite replies.—Sir John, after passing the most genteel compliments on the Bath Society, expressed a wish that C. Baker would apply to Mr. Matthews, as Secretary to that Society, and, if not too troublesome to them, that they would allow the discovery one more trial. To this Charles Baker cheerfully submitted, and the result appears from Mr. Robins's second Certificate.

"IN November, 1795, I again attended with Mr. Baker, to make a similar experiment to that made in the year 1792: the present was at the request of Sir John Sinclair, through the medium of the Bath Society, and at their request: when

the same quantity of Smutty Wheat was produced as in 92 and of the growth of the year 1795. It went through the same process, and was attended with the same great and extraordinary effect as the former trial, except in one instance,—the unprepared seed in the former trial, produced one third part smut, but this year one fifth, whilst the produce of that prepared by Mr. Baker was as clean a crop as ever was seen. And I do sincerely believe, if Mr. Baker's method was wholly adopted, that it would totally eradicate that baneful and pernicious property in Wheat.

Bristol, August, 1796.

THO. ROBINS."

N. B. The above experiment was tried in a field of fourteen or fifteen acres, the whole of which, except that prepared by Mr. Baker, was smutty, notwithstanding it was sown with the best and cleanest seed which could be procured thirty miles round.

The Society after receiving the above, with several other respectable and unequivocal Testimonials, honored Charles Baker with the following unanimous Vote of Thanks, at their General Meeting, the 13th of September last past.

"Very favourable Accounts and Certificates were received of the success of Mr. Charles Baker, of Bristol, in preventing the Smut in Wheat, by a cheap preparation of the Seed: His continued Experiments affording convincing Evidence that his Method may be relied on, the THANKS of the Society were Voted him for his useful exertions."

C. Baker begs to submit the following Attestation also to the Public, which he did not solicit, considering the foregoing ones amply sufficient to satisfy the most doubtful friend to Agricultural Improvement:

Bristol, April, the 2d, 1797.

MR. BAKER, SIR, Hearing you are pushing your subscription for the discovery of your invaluable Method of curing or preventing Smut in Wheat, and have already met with very considerable and deserved success, I wish to bear my testimony, tho' unsolicited by you, to its undoubted efficacy. Having sown miserably Smutty Wheat prepared by you for five years successively, on a small scale; and in every instance it has produced as clean crops as ever any man saw; tho' every year I limed and brined a part of my Seed, according to our accustomed method, and every year that part of my crop not prepared by you was more or less smutty. If it had ever failed I would not have subscribed for the discovery; but as it *never did fail*, I have subscribed with greater cheerfulness than to any thing in the course of my life; and if you chuse to publish my testimony, I shall be happy in answering any enquiries made on the subject, either personally or by post-paid letters. I am, your's, &c. HEN. SLADE.

With Testimonials so respectable and well authenticated, C. BAKER has opened the present Subscription, trusting to a generous Public, (not the Farmer only, but every Friend to the prosperity of the Nation) for that reward which the utility of the discovery may merit.—Subscribers of One Guinea, or upwards, will receive a Pamphlet, shewing the CAUSE and CURE of SMUT, by the First of August next, if by that period any tolerable number of Subscriptions are received; and none but Subscribers will be put in possession of it.—With a view to gain the confidence of the Public, not one farthing shall be drawn from the hands of the Agent with whom the Subscription is invested, until the Publication, (which will not much exceed this in length) is ready to be delivered. BRISTOL, April, 1797.





Books are opened for Subscriptions, at Messrs. Dorset, Johnson, and Co's, Bond-Street; Sir James Esdaile, Wright, Hammett, and Co's, Lombard-Street; Messrs. Langston, Towgood, and Amory's, Clement's-Lane; Messrs. Williams, Sons, and Drury's, Birchin-Lane; Messrs. Wilkinson, Polhill, Bloxham, and Bullcocks, and at Mr. Thomas

Bridge's, Seedsman, in the Borough, who is Agent for London and its environs; at whose House may be seen, in the List of Subscribers, the names of many of the first Characters in the kingdom, as it respects either property or agricultural knowledge.

Subscriptions received in Liverpool by The  
Corn-Inspector Charles Townes Senior  
& by W. Whalley Seedsman.

The following Gentlemen have already  
subscribed with C. Townes Senior in Liverpool  
Thomas Eccleston Esq. Seacroft Hall  
Pudsey Dawson Esq. Bolton Hall  
Thomas Stanforth Esq. Liverpool  
J. J. Thornton Esq. Walton Hall  
Edmund Rugby Esq. Grange  
Richard Cardwell Esq. Blackburn  
William Atkinson Esq. Liverpool  
John Hodson Esq. North Hall  
Edmund Tatham Esq. Campton Field  
John Webster Esq. Croxeth Hall  
James Wright Esq. Inoring (Norfolk)  
Henry Harpur Esq. Bask Hall  
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Thos. Adams Smith.

